in the new colonies in the Ukraine and the Crimea amounted to about 15,000 (or a total of 55,000 inhabitants).

It seems that the Soviet Government now propose to direct Jewish agricultural settlers mainly to Biro-Bidjan (Bureya), on the Amur River. It is stated that of its 1,450,000 hectares of land, 1,300,000 are fit for cultivation. Of these, 260,000 hectares are in the possession of some 27,000 non-Jews, and 100,000-120,000 hectares must be reserved for their future requirements. Thus approximately 900,000 hectares are available for Jewish colonization, which, counting 25 hectares to the family, would provide for 36,000 families. Adding the non-agricultural population, room for 50,000 to 100,000 families could be found in that district, which is rich in mineral resources. Should considerable numbers of Jews settle in Biro-Bidjan, the Russian Government propose to grant them national autonomy and form the district into a Jewish Republic within the Union of Soviet Republics.

During the years 1928-1932, the total number of Jews transplanted by the Government to Biro-Bidjan amounted only to 18,000, of whom 11,000 re-emigrated; those who have remained are engaged in agriculture (mostly on collective farms), and in handicrafts. According to a plan published towards the end of 1932, 300,000 people, the majority of them Jews, were to be settled in

Biro-Bidjan
between 1933 and 1937, finding employment in agriculture,
industry, and mining. The Government planned to spend
263 million roubles on its agricultural settlements, besides
very considerable sums for industry, electric works, railways,
schools, and public health. JFor 1933 the settling of a Jewish
population of 25,000 was planned, but, later on, the figure
was reduced to 17,000, and finally to 6800; half of them were
to be farmers, while the others were to work in factories,
the building trade, and transport. The expense of settling a
family, not counting land, amounts to 2000 roubles. As the
I.C.A, and the Agrojoint do not favour colonization in Biro-
Bidjan, the necessary means have to be provided by the